

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A communication system comprising an SDH network and an Ethernet network, wherein the SDH network has a network management system to monitor the functionality of SDH network elements in the SDH network. The SDH network is arranged to transport Ethernet information in SDH format across the SDH network, and is at least partially situated at a host site. The Ethernet network is situated at a user site. The SDH network having SDH network elements is arranged to convert the SDH format Ethernet information into Ethernet format information for transportation between the host and user sites via a link, and the Ethernet network has an Ethernet network element to receive the Ethernet format information. The SDH network element can request the status of the Ethernet network element when the SDH network element is required to update the SDH network management system with status information on the functionality of the SDH network element and the Ethernet network element.